

Appln No. 09/693,565

Amdt date June 7, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 8, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10, 17-20 and 25-26 are in the present application, of which claims 1 and 17 are independent. Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough review of the application, and also for the guidance in amending the claims to place them in a possibly allowable form. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the time and courtesy extended to applicants' attorney during the telephone interview of May 17, 2005, during which the Examiner confirmed that the claims enclosed herein have been amended satisfactorily in accordance with the amendments suggested/required by the Examiner in the March 8, 2005 Office Action, and are likely to be allowable.

As suggested/required by the Examiner, applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 17 to overcome the rejection of claims 1-10, 17-20 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102(e) and/or 103(a). As such, applicants believe that claims 1-10, 17-20 and 25-26 are now allowable¹. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-10, 17-20 and 25-26 be withdrawn, and that they be allowed.

¹ While the Examiner did not indicate the possible allowance of claims 17 and 20, applicants believe that they are allowable as well because of at least the reasons similar to that of the allowance of claim 1.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request an early issuance of a patent with claims 1-10, 17-20 and 25-26. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By



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626/795-9900

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